

JOHANNÉ M. VÉLEZ GARCÍA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 2017 – present Office of the Governor, La Fortaleza San Juan, PR

Governor's Advisor, Social Welfare & Health

- President, Governor's Advisory Council on LGBT Affairs
- President, Governor's Advisory Council on Elderly Affairs
- President, Governor's Advisory Council on Functional Diversity Affairs
- Executive Director, Governor's Women's Council
- Program Supervisor, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Governor's Liaison, Elderly Task Force – Hurricane Maria Relief Initiative
- Governor's Liaison, Emergency Response Initiatives - civil rights compliance; women, children, and elderly violence prevention shelters' initiatives.
- Advised the Governor of Puerto Rico on public policy issues related to social welfare, women's rights, human rights, health, and civil rights compliance, among others.
- Designated to manage and facilitate implementation of over 250 projects in the Administration's Government Plan on topics related to: women, early childhood, families, health, health, medical cannabis, community development, non-governmental organizations, civil rights, veterans, elderly, functional diversity, LGBT community, entrepreneurship opportunities, human rights, and animal rights, among others.

January 2013 - 2016 Frauen Group, Inc.

San Juan, PR

Consultant

- Offered compliance, training and consulting services designed to improve efficiency in the workplace for private business and public agencies.
- Developed and implemented educational and public relations community program designed to improve parental and community participation for various public schools in PR.
- Offered conferences and workshops in various topics, such as: impact of domestic violence among students; team building; leadership; stress management; domestic violence and sexual harassment prevention in the workplace, and anti-discrimination compliance, among others.

May 2011 - Dec 2012 Office of the Governor, La Fortaleza San Juan, PR

Consultant, Federal Funds Management and Compliance

- Designed compliance and monitoring plan for federal funds designated by the Federal Education Department through the Education Jobs Fund for Special Education Program in PR.
- Designed and directed the work of a team of 40 Regional and District Coordinators responsible for school monitoring of Special Education School Facilitators throughout public schools in PR.

July 2009 - May 2011 PR House of Representatives San Juan, PR

Executive Director, Women's Caucus

- Facilitated committee work resulting in enacted legislation recognizing and expanding women's rights.
 - Designed and coordinated the approval of three multi-sectorial Collaborative Agreements for the prevention of domestic violence, support for small business development and prevention of breast cancer.
 - Speechwriter for Majority Leader and other women legislators for special events and discussion forums.
 - Legislative policy and media advisor on women and human rights' issues.
 - Designed and offered educational conferences in topics related to women's rights and domestic violence prevention.
- Supported federal funds initiatives for NGO's.

January-April 2009 Government of Puerto Rico San Juan, PR

Puerto Rico Women's Advocate

2005-2008 PR House of Representatives San Juan, PR

Executive Director, Committee for Women's Affairs

- Legislative policy advisor on women's issues for Minority Caucus.
- Responsible for all substantive, investigative and technical work referred to the Committee for Women's Affairs and the Women's Legislative Caucus.
- Achieved the highest percentage of bill approval rating of all standing committees.

2001-2005 Puerto Rico Telephone San Juan, PR

Executive Communications Specialist

- Developed external and internal communication plans for corporate initiatives, branding efforts and compliance with federal and local mandates, such as: implementation of Local Number Portability; establishment of Extended Area Service Zones; and the launch of the Verizon Wireless brand in Puerto Rico.
- Speechwriting, presentations and special events support, including research and briefs for the company's President & CEO and the executive team.
- Developed and implemented the Verizon Excellence Awards Program, a company-wide employee recognition program.

1998-2000 Puerto Rico State Department San Juan, PR

Communications Department Director

- Responsible for all communications and media initiatives for the Secretary of State and the State Department's special events.
- Responsible for editing federal funds proposals.
- Speechwriting and preparation of reports and briefs for the Secretary of State and the Governor of Puerto Rico.

1996-1998 Commission for Women's Affairs San Juan, PR

Public Relations Division Director

Affirmative Action Division Director

- Responsible for all departmental operations and advertising initiatives, and the preparation of interagency reports for the Governor and Legislature.
- Supervised affirmative action compliance for all government agencies.
- Reviewed, edited, and monitored federal funds grants request for the agency.

1990-1995 Boston Public Schools Boston, MA

Bilingual Program Middle School Teacher

- ESL, Science and Mathematics teacher, grades 7th and 8th, for students in bilingual and mainstream programs.

1986-1990 Colegio Puertorriqueño de Niñas San Juan, PR

Colegio Mater Salvatoris

Elementary School Teacher

EDUCATION

2014 Centro Paz, Inc. San Juan, PR

- Completed required courses for Mediation Certification.

1998-2002 Interamerican University School of Law San Juan, PR

- Juris Doctor

1983-1986 Boston University Boston, MA

- B.A.; Major in History, Minors in Biology and Education

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Vice-Chair Democratic Party of Puerto Rico 2017-present

News analyst and commentator, El Azote 2009-2017

WKAQ580 Univisión Radio

Weekly participant in PR's top-rated news and political analysis radio program.

Weekly Newspaper columnist 2010-2012

El Vocero de PR

Fully bilingual in English and Spanish • Mediation • Conference & workshop Design • Speechwriting & editing • Proposal writing and editing • Computer literate in PC/Mac, Word, PowerPoint and Excel • Non-certified court and documents translator • Scriptwriting • Champion dog breeder, trainer and handler in obedience and conformation competitions.

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